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SOLUTION
OF THE
FRUIT TREE STOCKS
PROBLEM
— FOR —
AMERICAN NURSERYMEN



AMERICAN NURSERYMEN, HERE IS YOUR FUTURE SUPPLY OF FRUIT STOCK SEEDLINGS!

California's two great contributing rivers, the Sacramento and the San Joaquin, have with silt and sand deposits, built up 500,000 acres of land unexcelled for farming in the great triangle formed by the three major distributing centers to nation and world markets—San Francisco, Sacramento and Stockton. The peat lands of the San Joaquin Delta form one of the most important growing districts in the United States, producing a great diversity of vegetable and field crops.

The delta lands were once entirely covered with marsh plants, and were under water at high tide. The tide held back the waters of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers, and the rich sediment carried by these streams was deposited on the decaying organic swamps, building up the present fertile delta lands. Some fifty units or islands in this section were reclaimed for agriculture by building high levees around the islands formed by the natural streams. These islands vary in size from 1,000 to 10,000 acres.

These islands, now forming a great body of agricultural lands, are gridironed by hundreds of miles of navigable waterways which afford permanently cheap transportation. The levees hold out the water and immense electrical pumps are used for drainage. The drainage is under absolute control, and a system of sub-irrigation is the usual practice on account of the porous nature of the soil. The supply of irrigation water is inexhaustible, being syphoned over the levees from the surrounding streams and the expense is almost negligible.

The surface peat soil is black and finely divided to a depth of about 14 inches, and the subsoil is of a light brown color—a partially decayed organic residue which, when dry, is light and very porous. This peat soil has been pronounced by experts as "the richest in the world."

For the past ten years intensive experiments have been carried on in the growing of nursery stock in these peat lands, and the results have shown that the nursery stock on these lands is no longer in the experimental stage. In the past year over a million seedlings have been grown in the delta, and these seedlings have all been of the very highest quality and free from diseases. A fine example of these results may be seen at the Demonstration Farm of the California Delta Farms, which company owns and controls 30,000 acres of these central delta peat lands.

The greatest factor in the growing of seedlings in the peat lands is the ease with which the soil can be absolutely sterilized. In the past it has been the practice in growing vegetable crops, particularly potatoes, to burn the surface of these soils in order to eliminate any plant diseases. Since the peat lands are almost entirely organic material the burning of the soil is a very simple matter and, with a complete control of the water table, the soil can be burned to any desired depth. Greatly increased yields of field and truck crops have been obtained from burned soil. This factor has been shown to be of greatest importance in the growing of nursery stock, and is one of the reasons why

we believe the future of fruit stock seedlings for the nation's supply will be found here.

As stated, there are over a quarter of a million acres of this land available, and when we consider the small area necessary in growing seedling stock, it can be seen that the supply of land which can be sterilized by burning is unlimited. If necessary it would be an easy matter to transfer the seedling beds each year in order to be certain of absolutely clean stock. However, we find that one sterilization by burning will last for a number of years.

It has been said that seedlings grown on peat land in Holland have not proved satisfactory because of susceptibility to fungus diseases due to high summer humidity and rainfall. This objection cannot be raised in connection with California delta lands, since the summers are entirely void of rainfall, and the lands being under irrigation, the moisture is under absolute control. As has been previously explained, the water is obtained from the streams surrounding the islands, and is always fresh. This water is applied to the land by a system of sub-irrigation under complete control of the irrigator. The porous nature of the soil allows quick irrigation, and it is not necessary to have a wet surface surrounding the seedlings, which might cause certain fungus diseases.

Another point in question relates to the maturing of the seedlings. In the colder climates it is necessary to remove the seedlings sometimes before they mature or take a chance on freezing. This, however, is not so in the California delta, since the seedlings can be left in the ground all winter if necessary without any danger of freezing. In the delta the seedlings mature between November 15th and the latter part of December, dropping all their leaves naturally, thereby storing up the plant food in their roots, which later may be drawn upon when transferred to the nursery rows. This is an important point, since the seedlings in other localities which are necessarily dug before complete maturity, lack vitality and hence a greater loss in the nursery row.

These points and many others which we have not touched upon, and with which you are familiar, have proved that the dependable source of supply without failure for fruit stock seedlings, rose and quince cuttings, is found in the great delta of the San Joaquin and Sacramento Rivers in Central California. This is not in an experimental stage, but has been proved by years of careful culture.

In conclusion we might again summarize the important reasons why we believe this locality to be the logical center of fruit stock seedlings supply in the future:

Most desirable soil for growth of seedlings.

Long growing season—maturity complete.

Freedom from disease—complete sterilization of soil by burning.

Freedom from summer rains.

Freedom from frost injury.

Complete control of moisture.

Perfect transportation facilities—three transcontinental railroads and water transportation to Atlantic seaboard via Panama Canal.

209 c list of fruit tree stocks

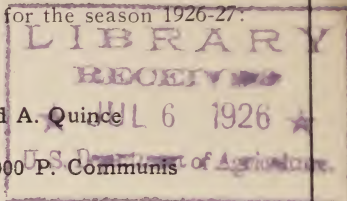
X
We offer the following seedlings for the season 1926-27:

800,000 Myrobolan

150,000 Rooted A. Quince

150,000 P. Communis

500,000 P. Calleryana



c 1926



We are in a position to contract to grow for the trade:

Mazzard

Mahalab

Myrobolan

P. Calleryana

P. Communis

Apples

Rooted Quince

Norway Maple

Rose Mannetti

R. Multiflora Japanaca

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION WRITE TO
**ROBERTSON-VISTICA NURSERY
COMPANY**

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